

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GSHERMAN

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S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. CAROLAN

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

----- 106219

R 282220Z JUL 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANA
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
CINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JULY 28:

Q. BOB, CAN I ASK YOU ABOUT THE SITUATION REGARDING THE
PROSPECTIVE AIR DEFENSE SYSTEM TO JORDAN? HAS A
COMPROMISE BEEN REACHED, OR DOES THE ADMINISTRATION STAND
BY ITS PREVIOUS NOTE OF OFFER?

A. ON THAT, I CANNOT TAKE YOU MUCH BEYOND LAST THURSDAY.
LAST THURSDAY IS THE LAST TIME I ADDRESSED IT. YES --
THE SECRETARY HAD A PRESS CONFERENCE FRIDAY. MR. ATHERTON,
THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR THE NEAR EAST, IS
IN INFORMAL
CONSULTATION TODAY WITH THE SENATE FOREIGN REALTIONS
COMMITTEE. I DON'T KNOW SPECIFICALLY WITH WHOM -- WHICH
STAFF MEMBERS, WHICH SENATORS. PRESUMABLY WITH SENATOR
CASE'S OFFICE BECAUSE OF HIS INTEREST IN THIS QUESTION.
AND THERE HAS BEEN NO FURTHER ACTION THUS FAR. WE HOPE,

AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, THAT WE CAN SOLVE THIS PROBLEM
OF TRYING TO MAINTAIN OUR COMMITMENT TO JORDAN AND TO TAKE
CARE OF THE CONCERNS OF THE CONGRESS, AS I SAID. BUT THAT
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IS WHERE IT STANDS AS OF RIGHT NOW. I MAY HAVE SOMETHING
LATER ON. BUT THAT IS ALL I CAN GIVE YOU AT THE MOMENT.

Q. THERE IS A RUMOR ON THE HILL THAT THE ADMINISTRATION
MAY WITHDRAW THE LETTER.

A. WHILE ROY IS UP THERE TALKING WITH THEM INFORMALLY
NOW TO TRY AND MOVE THIS PROBLEM ALONG TOWARDS A SOLUTION,

I JUST CANNOT GIVE YOU ANYTHING.

YES, MARILYN.

Q. ON THE SAME QUESTION, IT WAS THE UNDERSTANDING ON THE HILL ON FRIDAY THAT WHEN THE EXTENSION WAS REQUESTED, IT WAS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE UNITED STATES GETTING A COMPROMISE WITH JORDAN. HAS ANY COMPROMISE BEEN WORKED OUT WITH JORDAN ON THEIR ACCEPTING A SMALLER AMOUNT, OR ARE THEY STANDING BY THE INSISTENCE ON THE FULL PACKAGE?

A. ALL I CAN SAY TO YOU, MARILYN, NOW IS THAT WE CONTINUE TO BE IN TOUCH WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN ON THIS SUBJECT. MAYBE ROY ATHERTON IS UP THERE RIGHT NOW, OR MAYBE HE WILL END UP DOING SOME OF THIS BY PHONE. I AM NOT GOING TO COMMIT HIM TO GOING PHYSICALLY UP THERE. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHETHER THAT WILL BE REQUIRED. BUT I JUST CANNOT GET INTO THE SUBSTANCE OF IT AT THIS PARTICULAR TIME.

Q. BUT THE VOTE IS AT FOUR O'CLOCK. IT WOULD SEEM THAT IF ANYTHING WERE WORKED OUT WITH JORDAN, IT WOULD HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT BY NOW. HAS ANYTHING BEEN WORKED OUT THAT YOU MIGHT WANT TO TELL US ABOUT?

A. LET ME SAY THAT I AGREE WITH YOU THAT SOMETHING IS GOING TO HAVE TO BE DECIDED BEFORE THE VOTE AT FOUR O'CLOCK. BUT I AM NOT GOING TO GO INTO WHAT, BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW.

Q. YOU MEAN NEGOTIATIONS WITH JORDAN ARE CONTINUING AT THIS MOMENT AS WE SIT HERE?

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A. I DON'T KNOW IF THEY ARE STILL CONTINUING. BUT ATHERTON IS IN TOUCH WITH THE COMMITTEE NOW, AND HE HAS VERY MUCH IN MIND THE FOUR O'CLOCK TIME THAT YOU JUST MENTIONED.

Q. ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS, THERE ARE MANY REPORTS SAYING THAT THE TWO SIDES ARE FAR APART OR DRIFTING FARTHER APART THAN THEY WERE. DOES THE SECRETARY STILL BELIEVE IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO WORK OUT AN AGREEMENT DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST?

A. TWO POINTS. I THINK IT WOULD BE HIGHLY INADVISABLE FOR ME, SEEING THAT I HAVE NOT SEEN THE SECRETARY FOR

FORTY-EIGHT HOURS, TO GET INTO THIS SUBJECT, AND I THINK THAT HE WOULD PREFER TO ADDRESS THAT QUESTION HIMSELF. I JUST HAVE NOT SEEN HIM. I HAVE NOT TALKED WITH HIM.

THE SECOND POINT -- I THINK HE ADDRESSED THIS QUESTION TOWARDS THE END OF HIS PRESS CONFERENCE ON FRIDAY, AND CANNOT GIVE YOU ANYTHING NEW ON IT.

Q. WELL, DOES THE EGYPTIAN RESPONSE INDICATE THAT THEY NOW DO NOT WANT AMERICAN TECHNICIANS TO BE PRESENT AT THAT EARLY WARNING SYSTEM?

A. I HAVE NO IDEA. I AM JUST NOT CLUED IN ON THE MIDDLE EAST NEGOTIATIONS, WITH THE SECRETARY OUT OF THE COUNTRY.

Q. ON THE MECHANICS OF IT, AMBASSADOR DINITZ WAS HERE ON FRIDAY AND SAID HE WOULD NOW WAIT TO BE CALLED BACK IN BY THE SECRETARY. WHEN IT WAS POINTED OUT THAT THE SECRETARY HAD GONE AWAY FOR TEN DAYS, HE SAID, "I WILL WAIT." HAVE THINGS GONE INTO ABEYANCE WITH THE SECRETARY'S TRIP? HAS EVERYTHING STOPPED?

A. I AM NOT SURE THAT ONE NECESSARILY SHOULD DRAW THAT CONCLUSION, NO. I WOULD ASSUME THAT THERE WOULD NOT JUST BE A HIATUS OF TEN DAYS BECAUSE AMBASSADOR DINITZ IS HERE AND SECRETARY KISSINGER IS IN EUROPE AT ALL. THERE ARE UNCLASSIFIED

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WAYS TO COMMUNICATE WITHOUT FACE-TO-FACE COMMUNICATIONS IF NECESSARY. BUT I HONESTLY DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE SPECIFIC PLANS ARE. BUT I WOULD NOT DRAW THAT CONCLUSION THOUGH.

Q. ARE THERE WAYS FOR THE SECRETARY TO ACT AS AN INTER-MEDIARY BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT WHEN HE IS IN BELGRADE?

A. I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THERE ARE OR NOT. THERE COULD BE. I JUST DON'T HAVE ANYTHING SPECIFIC ON IT. PRESUMABLY COMMUNICATIONS COULD BE SENT BACK HERE FOR

AMBASSADOR DINITZ IF NECESSARY. I JUST DON'T KNOW. BUT THAT IS MY OWN SPECULATION.

Q. THROUGH WHOM WOULD THE MESSAGES BE SENT BACK TO AMBASSADOR DINITZ HERE?

A. I DON'T KNOW. PRESUMABLY MR. SISCO.

Q. MR. SISCO IS AWAY.

A. OR MR. ATHERTON IS HERE, YOU KNOW.

(WHEREUPON AT 1:05 P.M. THE BRIEFING WAS CON-
CLUDED.) INGERSOLL

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